

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the abstract with the following:

The present application describes a method of implementing a Viterbi algorithm (VA) for trellis coded modulation (TCM) decoding in communication equipment. According to an embodiment, a branch metric is calculated by adding the absolute value of the real and imaginary parts of a complex vector resulting from the subtraction of a received symbol and a constellation point that is the closest to the symbol in each subset.